

Labor and Public Employees Committee

RB No. 7034

To Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

My name is Marcy Carmona. I am a licensed daycare provider and I live in West Haven.

I am writing today in support of RB 7034, AN ACT CONCERNING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS FOR IN-HOME SUBSIDIZED DAY CARE PROVIDERS.

I love caring for kids, but with today's economic developments and my personal situation, it has become more difficult to operate my daycare. With the small subsidy I get from the state, I pay for all the play equipment, cots, blankets, games and other learning materials plus food for the children. I care for kids from 7:30 in the morning until 5:30 at night. My license is for 24 hour care which means I can help workers who work non-traditional hours. This is another advantage of home-based daycare. My house is a substitute home for these children. With the loving care I provide, their parents can go to work feeling assured.

These days, it has become more and more difficult for me to maintain or even have health insurance. At age of thirty-two I was diagnosed with lymphatic cancer. I do not make sufficient income and as a consequence I am unable to afford the level of care I should have. I am also concerned for my little grandson who has muscular dystrophy. The other children are great with

him and he in turn is teaching them to be accepting of children with special needs but if I cannot get an affordable health plan soon, I will have to consider closing my daycare.

A majority of family daycare providers like me have decided that we can have a voice and retain providers like myself with the help of a union. Unfortunately, the state of Connecticut currently denies us the freedom to choose union representation. In my household, we would be very appreciative if you would support us by approving this bill – RB. No. 7034. Thank-you very much for your efforts.

Marcy Carmona

375 Elm Street

West Haven, CT 06516

(203) 937-6774